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REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS AND DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS TENTH SPECIAL SESSION

Report of the Secretary-General

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* A/48/150 and Corr.1.

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. Pursuant to General Assembly decision 47/422 of 9 December 1992, the First Committee was reconvened at United Nations Headquarters from 8 to 12 March 1993. The purpose of the session was to reassess the multilateral arms control and disarmament machinery, in particular the respective roles of the First Committee, the Disarmament Commission and the Conference on Disarmament and their interrelationship, as well as the role of the Office for Disarmament Affairs, including ways and means to enhance the functioning and efficiency of the said machinery.

2. At that session, the First Committee considered the views expressed by Member States on those questions. On 9 March 1993, the Secretary-General made a statement to the Committee in which he pointed out that the capabilities of the Secretariat were being strengthened to enable it to discharge its responsibilities effectively in the field of disarmament.

3. Following the recommendation of the First Committee, the General Assembly adopted on 8 April 1993 resolution 47/54 G, entitled "Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session". In respect of the Office for Disarmament Affairs, the resolution reads as follows:

> "The General Assembly,
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> "...
>
> "9. Urges the Secretary-General to take concrete steps to strengthen the Office for Disarmament Affairs in order to ensure that it has the necessary means and resources to carry out its mandated tasks;
>
> "10. Requests the Secretary-General to report on those steps to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session."

4. The present report is submitted pursuant to that request.

II. STEPS TO STRENGTHEN THE OFFICE FOR DISARMAMENT AFFAIRS

5. In connection with paragraph 9 of the resolution, the Secretary-General has taken a number of actions regarding the organization and resources of the Office in order to strengthen its effective functioning. In respect of its organizational aspect, the Secretary-General has decided that:

(a) The Office for Disarmament Affairs will stay in New York and remain a part of the Department for Political Affairs, which falls under the purview of Under-Secretary-General Marrack Goulding;

(b) The Office will be renamed the Centre for Disarmament Affairs and will be headed by a Director at the D-2 level.

6. As regards the resources of the Office, the Secretary-General has included appropriate additions in his proposals for the programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995, as follows:

(a) Professional

(i) Upgrading of a D-1 level post to the D-2 level for the function of the Director of the Centre;

(ii) One P-5 level post and one P-2 level post for activities related to the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms.

(b) General Service

One other-level post in connection with the Register.

7. In addition, the Secretary-General has proposed that a sum of $985,500 be appropriated for the 1994-1995 biennium to the Office for the acquisition of office automation equipment, that is, computer hardware, software and related equipment, in order to upgrade its database facility.